

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An aligning tool having a plurality of grooves formed side by side is provided; gradient index rod lenses are placed in alignment within the grooves at an average spacing of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  - 5  $\mu\text{m}$ ; the gradient index rod lenses are fixed to form an integral unit as they maintain the aligned state; thereafter the end faces of each rod lens are polished.